



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator
Subject: Year of Caring
Date: 8/10/2026

In June, Jason Gearhart requested that the city council discuss the possibility of moving toward a year of caring event where volunteer activities happen all year long.

From Gearhart

We have the Day of Caring - I think it is great. One of the strengths/ assets of our community is retired people who have pride in our community. A lot of our retired individuals have lived in Oelwein for decades. How about a Year(s) of Caring?

The city establishes a volunteer network of retirees - that group would have leaders/ people in charge. The city would only be the middleman - between property owner and Volunteer Network (need a much better name)

They could focus on very specific tasks to assist the property owner.

- 1. Paint - garage, shed, house etc.*
- 2. Clear shrubs, etc.*

I think we have a group of individuals who would be interested and would help beautify our community.

The city does a day of caring each year and it has been successful. While volunteers have been helpful to the city, it does require staff time to provide equipment and coordination. Should the city council have more ideas for staff to look into, we can begin to shape a program that meets the goals of the city council. With property taxes being a main target of the state of Iowa, volunteering may have to be the solution to some of the current and future budget issues.